



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/817,154	04/01/2004	John Hal Howard	14917.0465US01	1172
27488	7590	01/27/2008	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)			TRAN, TONGOC	
P.O. BOX 2903			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			2134	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/27/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. Box 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

MAILED

Gregory D. Leibold
Merchant & Gould (Microsoft)
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903

JAN 28 2008

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

In re Application of:
John HOWARD et al.
Appl. No.: 10/817,154
Filed: April 1, 2004
For: AUTHENTICATION BROKER SERVICE

DECISION ON PETITION
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.59

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR § 1.59(b), filed on 15 January 2008, to expunge information submitted pursuant to MPEP § 724.05.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Petitioner requests that the information submitted on 15 January 2008 be expunged from the record if found not to be important to a reasonable examiner in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent. The petition fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(g) has been paid.

The petition is premature because the application has not been allowed or abandoned. Accordingly, it is not appropriate to make a final determination of whether or not the material requested to be expunged is "material," with "materiality" being defined as any information which the examiner considers as being important to a determination of patentability of the claims. Thus, the petition to expunge must be dismissed at this time.

During prosecution on the merits, the examiner will determine whether or not the information submitted on 15 January 2008 is considered to be "material." Once prosecution on the merits is closed, applicant may re-submit a petition to expunge the information. No further fee is required for such a second submission of a petition under 37 CFR § 1.59 to expunge information. If the information is not considered by the examiner to be material, the information will be expunged from the application and may be returned to applicant.

Any inquiry concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned whose telephone number is (571) 272-3613.

Vincent N. Trans, SPRE/QAS
Technology Center 2100
Computer Architecture, Software, and
Information Security